(c) whether Government could justify that the yardstick adopted in dealing with the foreign country in the recent Mumbai Bomb Blast and recent mass killing of Sri Lankan Tamils are one and the same; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Government of India's strong concerns for the safety, security and welfare of Sri Lankan Tamil civilians caught up in the conflict in Northern Sri Lanka have been taken up with the Sri Lankan Government, including at the highest levels. During the visit of the External Affairs Minister to Sri Lanka on 27th January 2009, he emphasized the need for the Sri Lankan Government to give safe passage to civilians and internally displaced persons to come out of the LTTE held areas, to respect and expand safe zones, and to provide relief supplies. Government of India is extending humanitarian assistance to civilians affected by the conflict.

Government is fully conscious of its responsibilities towards its citizens and will take all necessary measures to protect their interests.

Anti-India activities from Bangladesh

1053. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government discussed with new Government of Bangladesh about certain insurgent outfits having bases in Bangladesh and directing anti-India activities from that country;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether Government has done anything to counter anti-India propaganda going on in Bangladesh as this has been friendly country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against north-east insurgents hiding in Myanmar and Bangladesh?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) External Affairs Minister visited Bangladesh on February 9, 2009. During his visit he met several leaders of the newly elected Government including the Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina and the Foreign Minister and Home Minister of Bangladesh. In his meetings he discussed various security related issues including the issue of Indian Insurgent Groups in Bangladesh. The leaders of Bangladesh assured EAM that they would not allow the use of Bangladesh territory for activities inimical to India and would take action against groups engaged in anti-India activity.

Whenever anti-India propaganda in Bangladesh media is brought to our notice, all necessary steps are taken to provide factual information and counter these reports.

As regards, Myanmar, security related issues have been taken up at the highest level in the Government of Myanmar and there are bilateral institutional mechanisms for discussing such issues.